

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2017

Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue

7:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Allis.

President Allis stated this meeting was being recorded. If any other person present was doing the same, they must notify the chairperson at this time. It was noted the Town Council was audio recording and GCTV-15 was video recording the meeting for future broadcast.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll Call was taken. All Councilors were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor William Martin; Town Clerk Deborah J. Tuttle; Councilors Elect Ashley Stempel, Douglas Mayo, Sheila Gilmour; Director of Administration Mark Smith; School Committee Secretary Donald Alexander; Special Assistant to the Mayor for Special Projects John Lunt; Chief Assessor Audrey Murphy; Board of Assessors Member Joseph Ruggeri; Energy Director Carole Collins; Veterans Director Timothy Niejadlik; DPW Director Donald Ouellette; Planning Board Members Virginia Desorgher and George Touloumtzis; Mass Department of Energy Resources Regional Coordinator Jim Barry; GCTV-15 staff; Aviva Luttrell, *the Recorder*, and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Burge, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2017 AND OCTOBER 24, 2017.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The following members of the public spoke:

- Claire Chang, the Solar Store, 2 Fiske Ave, supported the proposed parking proposal as submitted by the Conway School of Landscape Design.
- David Moscaritolo, 43 Country Club Road, handed out the attached information regarding the Town of Greenfield's bonded debt. He questioned how high the debt would be allowed to go and noted the children are going to be the ones to pay this.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Councilor Burge read the following Public Hearing notice: The Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield, to adopt a residential factor in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 58, Section 1A, which shall be used by the Board of Assessors to determine the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property. The Assessors shall provide all information and data relevant to making such determination and the fiscal effect of the available alternatives. The hearing is required under Section 56 of Chapter 40, Massachusetts General Laws. Brickett Allis, President

Councilor Burge held the second reading: The Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield, to adopt a residential factor in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 58, Section 1A, which shall be used by the Board of Assessors to determine the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property. The Assessors shall provide all information and data relevant to making such determination and the fiscal effect of the available alternatives. The hearing is required under Section 56 of Chapter 40, Massachusetts General Laws.

President Allis asked if anyone wished to speak at the Public Hearing. Assessor Ruggeri spoke to the recommendation made by the Board of Assessor for a single tax rate.

President Allis stated the hearing would remain open.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Berry presented the attached certificate of congratulations to Ms. Collins on behalf of the City of Greenfield for the accomplishment as a Green Community.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Martin spoke of the following:

- Support a single tax for all property in Greenfield.
- Regarding the comments of debt made by the public; a request for the Rescinding of Debt would be forwarded to the Town Council within the next 90 days.
- A Capital request would be forthcoming to the Town Council in the amount of \$150,000 for additional evaluations of 2/3 of all properties in Greenfield.
- Urged the Town Council to approve the ordinance for the Veterans Assistance Fund.
- Asked the Town Council to approve the proposed TIF for Abercrombie LLC.

Mayor Martin and Mr. Lunt reported on GCET at attached.

Questions and answers between the Town Council and the Mayor were regarding:

- The process of setting rates for GCET and concerns for oversight.
- When would the GCET board meet and how would the public be informed of the meetings.
- The Mayor holds open office hours once a month on Fridays between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm at Town Hall.
- Possible future public consideration and legislation for GCET to provide electricity to the community.
- Town Attorney would attend commissioners meetings to discuss which Mass General Law has oversight of GCET.
- Veterans Ordinance amending the board to five members rather than three; at least one being a female.
- Costs associated with the Adams Grant and the Tourism Website will be forwarded to the Town Council.

Questions and answers between the Town Council, Mayor and Ms. Murphy were regarding:

- Timeline for the Assessors Office when considering a recommendation for the Tax Classification.
- Home assessments and inspections.
- Applications for exemptions and the criteria for abatements.
- Effects of a shift in the tax classification on businesses both small and large.

Discussion was held between Councilors and the Mayor regarding recent correspondence between the Mayor, Police Chief, and President Allis; as well as the press.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Renaud, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Renaud, second by Councilor Burge, it was,

**MOVED:** IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHARTER SECTION 2-7 I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL CONDUCT AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION INTO ALL THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDED THE MAYOR ACCUSING THE TOWN COUNCIL LEADERSHIP OF BULLYING BEHAVIOR ON OR AROUND NOVEMBER 3, 2017. IN ORDER TO CONDUCT OUR INVESTIGATION IN THE MOST EXPEDIENT WAY POSSIBLE. I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL CALL A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THIS INQUIRY TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER

29<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM. I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SUBPOENA: MAYOR MARTIN; POLICE CHIEF HAIGH; AND AUDREY LABONTE.

**DISCUSSION:** Comments included:

- This issue would be better discussed at a Town Council meeting rather than in the newspaper.
- The goal was to make a determination whether to file a complaint with the State Ethics Commission.
- Timeline for notification of people subpoenaed.
- The location would be determined.

It was by majority, 9 yes, 0 no and 1 abstention (Councilor Mass),

**VOTED:** IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHARTER SECTION 2-7 I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL CONDUCT AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION INTO ALL THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDED THE MAYOR ACCUSING THE TOWN COUNCIL LEADERSHIP OF BULLYING BEHAVIOR ON OR AROUND NOVEMBER 3, 2017. IN ORDER TO CONDUCT OUR INVESTIGATION IN THE MOST EXPEDIENT WAY POSSIBLE. I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL CALL A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THIS INQUIRY TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM. I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SUBPOENA: MAYOR MARTIN; POLICE CHIEF HAIGH; AND AUDREY LABONTE.

All questions from Councilors for those subpoenaed must be emailed to the Town Council office prior to 5:00 pm Friday, November 24, 2017 and would be sent to the three people subpoenaed.

**TOWN EMPLOYEES:** President Allis stated there was an employee of the Town, who was a Dispatcher from the Police Department, who wished to speak. In full disclosure he stated this person was his girlfriend. Danielle Marie, 300 Wells Street read a statement which described the difficult and unexpected medical difficulties with the birth of her and President Allis’s daughter Lilly. She questioned the knowledge of the Police Chief and Mayor regarding the timing of the letter sent to President Allis. She stated the Police Chief was fully aware of her and President Allis current difficult situation as she had spoken with him via a phone call.

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Alexander spoke of the following:

- As of November 3, 2017 there were 1753 students’ enrolled in Greenfield Schools.
- As part of general maintenance and upkeep of the facilities and working with the Recreation Department, all of the woodchips would be replaced at the following school by the spring: Greenfield Middle School, Four-Corners, Academy of Early Learning, Federal Street, Newton Street, and Green River for a total cost of \$12,415.16.
- All schools held Veterans Day Celebrations’.

In response to Councilor Mass’s question, Mr. Alexander stated he would follow up with the Superintendent relating to the Town of Greenfield’s Federal Government Reimbursement.

In response to President Allis question, Mayor Martin stated he would research and report back relating to the setup and function of the light at Main/Federal Street and Silver/Federal Street intersections.

President Allis asked if anyone wished to speak at the Public Hearing. Ashley Stempel, 277 Conway Street, appreciated the discussion regarding a Split Tax rate and urged the Council to create a Tax Force to discuss the issue for next year. President Allis closed the Public Hearing at 9:03 pm.

**TOWN OFFICERS:** None.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Order no. FY 18-038**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Childs, second by Councilor Mass, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 0030 – MAYOR, SECTION, 30-2. COMPENSATION, AS ATTACHED HERETO AS “EXHIBIT A” AND FURTHER AMENDS THE INDEX OF THE CODE AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD.

*Handed out at the Aug 9 2017 A+D Meeting*

**Exhibit A**

**§ 30-2. Compensation.**

- A. The Mayor shall initially receive an annual base salary of \$80,000 dollars as set forth in section 3-1 of the Greenfield Home Rule Charter.
- B. Salary Review –
  - 1. The Mayor may request in his/her annual budget submission to the City Council, an increase in his/her salary.
  - 2. The increase shall not exceed 5% annually.
  - 3. No less than every three (3) years, a review of salaries of mayors and/administrators of cities/towns of comparable size and/or complexity shall be conducted and submitted to City Council with the annual budget.
  - 4. The City Council shall take up the request to increase the Mayor’s salary only in the annual budget, unless the Mayor includes in writing at the time of the annual budget that as part of his/her overall budget plan he/she plans to wait to ask for the increase until the supplemental budget process.
  - 5. Any increase voted by City Council in any year shall then become the new base for any future increase request.

2017 SEP 15 PM 5:00

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Burge, it was by majority, 4 no,

**VOTED:** TO CALL THE QUESTION.

It was by majority, 9 yes and 3 no,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 18 -038.

**Order no. FY 18-042**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Maloni, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION TITLED “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS TO OPPOSE THE REVISED RATE DESIGN PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY EVERSOURCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.”

**A RESOLUTION**

**OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS TO OPPOSE THE REVISED RATE DESIGN PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY EVERSOURCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on June 1, 2017, to enact a \$96 million rate increase in 2018 and an additional \$188 million over the following four years that will result in a roughly 20% increase for all electricity ratepayers; and
- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to DPU on June 1, 2017, will result in each rate class seeing their bill increase in 2018, with impacts to commercial and industrial customers largely undefined that will ‘vary significantly’ based on rate class and usage; and,
- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to DPU on June 1, 2017, contains the highest allowed return on equity to shareholders in New England at 10.5%, which is significantly higher than the national average of 9.3%; and,
- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to DPU on June 1, 2017, will have a negative impact on the future development of solar energy in Greenfield and the Commonwealth by reducing the value of solar energy net metering credits and also implementing minimum monthly and demand charges; and,
- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to DPU on June 1, 2017, will have a highly negative impact on Greenfield’s budget with reduced net metering credits for solar energy in operation and in development as well as making extremely difficult to advance renewable energy projects in the future; and,
- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to DPU on June 1, 2017, is structured in a way that is counter to the Green Communities Act and will stifle the innovative solutions that were a product of that law and is contradictory to the state’s greenhouse gas emission targets; and
- WHEREAS**, the Revised Rate Design Proposal submitted by Eversource to DPU on June 1, 2017, will have the opposite impact from what lawmakers intended in 2016 by preserving the retail rate for net metering credits for municipal projects; and
- WHEREAS**, Greenfield is opposed to any changes in rate structure that de-incentivizes energy efficiency and local renewable energy development; and,
- WHEREAS**, Greenfield supports and actively works to reduce energy costs for all citizens and business owners by providing 100% green electricity through Greenfield Light & Power at a savings over the utility rate for all of 2017; and,
- WHEREAS**, Greenfield supports clean and renewable energy as a top priority and has been a leader in implementing in expanding solar energy throughout the municipality; and,
- WHEREAS**, Greenfield supports a permanent exemption for new and existing municipal net metering customers; and,

**WHEREAS**, Greenfield supports legislation and policies that enable equitable solar photovoltaic access to all within Greenfield and across the Commonwealth for existing and future renewable energy projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Greenfield supports the proliferation of a solar PV future that includes equal access to all community members to take advantage of the many benefits of solar PV, whether residential, commercial or community owned arrays.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council opposes the Revised Rate Design Proposal for the negative consequences to a successful solar market structure and the cost burden to the ratepayer.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloni stated the Community Relations and Education Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 18 -042.

**Order no. FY 18-028**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Leonovich, second by Councilor Mass, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF GREENFIELD AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 200, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD SECTION 200-7.18. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS [ADDED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON AUGUST 17, 2016] BY STRIKING THE WORDS “PLANNING BOARD” THROUGHOUT AND REPLACING THE SAME WITH THE WORDS “ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS”

AND FURTHER BY AMENDING G (5) AS FOLLOWS:

BY INSERTING AFTER “TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES” BUT BEFORE THE WORDS “WAIVE STANDARDS OF SECTION D OF THIS ORDINANCE”, THE WORDS “BASED ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- (A) THE SHOWING OF GOOD AND SUFFICIENT CAUSE THAT A WAIVER IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THIS CHAPTER AS A WHOLE;
- (B) A DETERMINATION THAT FAILURE TO GRANT THE WAIVER WOULD RESULT IN EXCEPTIONAL HARDSHIP TO THE APPLICANT;
- (C) DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY;
- (D) THE NECESSITY TO ACCOMMODATE REQUESTS OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, PLANNING BOARD OR HISTORIC COMMISSION OR ANY MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT;
- (E) EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE WHICH IS UNDUE GIVEN THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVISION(S) WAIVED;
- (F) THE AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO SUBSTANTIALLY MEET THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVISION(S) WAIVED;
- (G) NO MUNICIPAL FUNCTION, NOR ANY DIRECT ABUTTER WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY EFFECTED BY THE WAIVER.” WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE JUNE 21, 2017 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

AND FURTHER AMENDS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX OF THE CODE. AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Leonovich stated the Economic Development Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was by majority, 1 no,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 18 -028.

***Order no. FY 18-044***

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Burge, second by Councilor Mass, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD BY ADDING CHAPTER 566 VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND ORDINANCE AS ATTACHED HERETO AND FURTHER AMENDS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX OF CONTENTS OF THE CODE AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD.

**Chapter 566**

**VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND**

[History: Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Greenfield on Date, 2017. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 566-1. Purpose	§ 566- 4. Roll of Veterans Service Officer
§ 566-2. Acceptance	§ 566- 5. Prohibitions
§ 566-3. Veterans Assistance Fund Board	

**§ 566-1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance to adopt the provision of MGL Chapter 60 § 3F and control the administration of funds collected through the means of a voluntary check off on property tax bills, municipal excise tax bills, and water sewer bills.

**§ 566-2. Acceptance.**

The Town of Greenfield, hereby accepts the provisions of MGL Chapter 60 § 3F.

**§ 566-3. Veterans Assistance Fund Board**

- A. There shall be a Veterans’ Fund Board comprised of the veterans Service Officer or Designee and two appointees by the Mayor of the Town of Greenfield. No fewer than two Members of the Board shall be veterans. One Member of the Board shall have a background in Social Services;
- B. The Veterans Assistance Fund Board shall be the Board in charge of the collection of the collection of the this municipal charge;
- C. The Treasurer/Collector will provide whatever support the Veterans Assistance Fund Board shall require for the administration of this program, including but not limited to sending quarterly reports of the amounts collected.
- D. The Board shall make recommendations to the Veterans Service Department for the following:
  - (i) the establishment an application process for veterans and their dependents to obtain assistance;
  - (ii) the establishment standards for acceptable documentation of veteran status or dependent status; and
  - (iii) the establishment financial eligibility criteria for determining need and amount of assistance for eligible applicants.

**§ 566-4. Roll of Veterans Service Officer**

- A. The Veterans' Services Officer shall establish an application process for veterans and their dependents to obtain assistance; establish standards for acceptable documentation of veteran status or dependent status; and establish financial eligibility criteria for determining need and amount of assistance for eligible applicants.
- B. The Veterans' Services Officer or his designee shall be responsible for reviewing each applicant and fairly applying the eligibility and level-of-need standards.
- C. The Veterans Service Officer shall report to the Town Council within thirty days any deviation from the recommendations of the Veterans Assistance Fund Board’s recommendations.

D. The Veterans' Services Officer shall report annually to the Town Council the amount collected through this program, the amount held in the Veterans Assistance Fund, the amount allocated by category;

**§ 566-5. Prohibitions**

- A. No funds shall be expended on Veterans who are not residents of Greenfield.
- B. No funds shall be expended other than to provide support for veterans and their dependents in need of immediate assistance with food, transportation, heat and oil expenses.
- C. No member of the Veterans Assistance Fund Board shall receive funds from the fund.
- D. No funds shall be used for administrative costs of the fund.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Burge, second by Councilor Mass, it was,

**MOVED:** TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP FROM 3 TO 5 MEMBERS WITH 4 MAYORAL APPOINTEES.

**DISCUSSION:** Comments included:

- This was a reasonable compromise.
- The board was advisory only and was very helpful to veterans.
- Request of at least one woman on the board.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD BY ADDING CHAPTER 566 VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND ORDINANCE AS ATTACHED HERETO AND FURTHER AMENDS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX OF CONTENTS OF THE CODE AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD, AS AMENDED.

**Chapter 566**  
**VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND**

[History: Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Greenfield on November 15, 2017. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.]

<p>§ 566-1. Purpose</p> <p>§ 566-2. Acceptance</p> <p>§ 566-3. Veterans Assistance Fund Board</p>	<p>§ 566- 4. Roll of Veterans Service Officer</p> <p>§ 566- 5. Prohibitions</p>
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**§ 566-1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance to adopt the provision of MGL Chapter 60 § 3F and control the administration of funds collected through the means of a voluntary check off on property tax bills, municipal excise tax bills, and water sewer bills.

**§ 566-2. Acceptance.**

The Town of Greenfield, hereby accepts the provisions of MGL Chapter 60 § 3F.

**§ 566-3. Veterans Assistance Fund Board**

- E. There shall be a Veterans' Fund Board comprised of **5 members, one (1) shall be** ~~of~~ the veterans Service Officer or Designee and ~~two~~ **four (4)** appointees by the Mayor of the Town of Greenfield. No fewer than two **(2)** Members of the Board shall be veterans. One Member of the Board shall have a background in Social Services;

- F. The Veterans Assistance Fund Board shall be the Board in charge of the collection of the collection of the this municipal charge;
- G. The Treasurer/Collector will provide whatever support the Veterans Assistance Fund Board shall require for the administration of this program, including but not limited to sending quarterly reports of the amounts collected.
- H. The Board shall make recommendations to the Veterans Service Department for the following:
  - (iv) the establishment an application process for veterans and their dependents to obtain assistance;
  - (v) the establishment standards for acceptable documentation of veteran status or dependent status; and
  - (vi) the establishment financial eligibility criteria for determining need and amount of assistance for eligible applicants.

#### § 566-4. Roll of Veterans Service Officer

- E. The Veterans' Services Officer shall establish an application process for veterans and their dependents to obtain assistance; establish standards for acceptable documentation of veteran status or dependent status; and establish financial eligibility criteria for determining need and amount of assistance for eligible applicants.
- F. The Veterans' Services Officer or his designee shall be responsible for reviewing each applicant and fairly applying the eligibility and level-of-need standards.
- G. The Veterans Service Officer shall report to the Town Council within thirty days any deviation from the recommendations of the Veterans Assistance Fund Board's recommendations.
- H. The Veterans' Services Officer shall report annually to the Town Council the amount collected through this program, the amount held in the Veterans Assistance Fund, the amount allocated by category;

#### § 566-5. Prohibitions

- E. No funds shall be expended on Veterans who are not residents of Greenfield.
- F. No funds shall be expended other than to provide support for veterans and their dependents in need of immediate assistance with food, transportation, heat and oil expenses.
- G. No member of the Veterans Assistance Fund Board shall receive funds from the fund.
- H. No funds shall be used for administrative costs of the fund.

#### Order no. FY 18-041 A

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Burge, second by Councilor Mass, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 1(ONE), RESULTING IN AN EQUAL TAX RATE FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Burge, it was,

**MOVED:** TO AMEND BY STRIKING THE MOTION IN IS ENTIRETY AND SUBSTITUTE WITH THE FOLLOWING: THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 1.5 (ONE POINT FIVE), RESULTING IN A SPLIT TAX RATE FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018.

**DISCUSSION:** Vice-President Mass spoke of his reasons for proposing a Split Tax rate. Discussion and comments included:

- The spilt rate of 1.5 would save the average homeowner about \$ 740.00
- Shouldn't be a surprise this was being discussed; it's part of the yearly municipal finance schedule.
- The Town Council requested information regarding a split tax rate at the September 5, 2017 Committee Chairs meeting and never received any information.

- Manners in which relief could be given to residential tax payers including splitting the tax rate, expanding the tax base or cutting services.
- Comparisons made to other local communities are not comparable.
- The Town was giving lucrative 3% raises to Teachers and residents tax bills have doubled over 15 years.
- Support and promote abatements.
- Would follow the Board of Assessors recommendation.
- If the split was reduced from 1.5 to a lower amount it may be more palatable. If the rate were reduced to 1.3 the average homeowner would see a \$416.25 reduction in their tax bill.
- If a small business exemption were passed it would not benefit most small businesses because they are renters.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Maloni, second by Councilor Burge, it was,  
**MOVED:** TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT FROM 1.5 TO 1.3.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloni noted this would be “common ground” and citizens would still realize a good reduction in their tax bill.

It was by majority 4 yes and 5 no,

**DEFEATED:** TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT FROM 1.5 TO 1.3.

President Allis stated the Town Council would now vote on the proposed amendment by Councilor Mass

It was by majority 8 yes and 3 no,

**VOTED:** TO AMEND BY STRIKING THE MOTION IN IS ENTIRETY AND SUBSTITTUTE WITH THE FOLLOWING: THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 1.5 (ONE POINT FIVE), RESULTING IN A SPLIT TAX RATE FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018.

President Allis spoke in favor of splitting the tax rate. He stated the Town Council would now vote on the main motion as amended.

It was by majority 9 yes and 2 no,

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 1.5 (ONE POINT FIVE), RESULTING IN A SPLIT TAX RATE FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018, AS AMENDED.

**Order no. FY 18-041 B**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Burge, second by Councilor Mass, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTES THAT NO RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Burge stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 18 -041 B.

**Order no. FY 18-041 C**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Burge, second by Councilor Pyfrom, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTES THAT NO SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Renaud, second by Councilor Mass, it was,  
**MOVED:** TO AMEND THE ORDER TO READ “THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTES THAT ~~NO~~ A SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.”

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Murphy explained the effects of a Small Commercial Exemption on small and large businesses.

It was by majority 10 yes and 1 no,  
**VOTED:** TO AMEND THE ORDER.

It was by majority 8 yes and 3 no,  
**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTES THAT A SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018, AS AMENDED.

**Order no. FY 18-043**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Leonovich, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was,  
**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF LOCAL INCENTIVE-ONLY APPLICATION AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR ABERCROMBIE LLC TO THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR THE STATE INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS AND TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE RESOLUTION.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Leonovich stated the EDC forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval. Discussion included the following:

- The Planning Department has said that this building would be over capacity with 60 people.
- The State will pay the contractors doing the work regardless if the Town offers a TIF or not.
- Wonderful to see this building being rehabilitated.
- Now that the tax rate has been split the applicant will be paying at a higher tax rate.
- Current and future value of the property.
- TIF were intended to bring jobs.
- Greenfield doesn’t have a spending problem it has a revenue problem.

It was by majority 9 yes, 0 no and 2 abstentions,  
**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 18 -043.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS** None.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Renaud, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:20 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deborah J. Tuttle, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Greenfield High School Cafeteria  
 Regular Meeting  
 November 15, 2017

Attendance

1. Sund, Verne	Y					
2. Lobik, John	Y					
3. Allis, Brickett	Y					
4. Muzyka-Pyfrom, Wanda	Y					
5. Wainstein, Robert	Y					
6. Burge, Maria	Y					
7. Childs, William	Y					
8. Vacant	---					
9. Leonovich, Daniel	Y					
10. Mass, Isaac	Y					
11. Renaud, Karen	Y					
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y					
13. Maloni, Mark	Y					